

County Snapshot

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Butte County is located in the northern part of California's Sacramento Valley. The surrounding counties include Plumas on the northeast, Tehama on the northwest, Glenn on the west, with Sutter, Yuba and Colusa bordering on the south.

Butte County's population is projected to reach 307,300 by 2020. This represents an increase of over 100,000 new residents to the current population.

The 1999 annual average civilian labor force for Butte County was 85,800 with an unemployment rate of 6.8 percent. The state's annual average unemployment rate was 5.2 percent for this period.

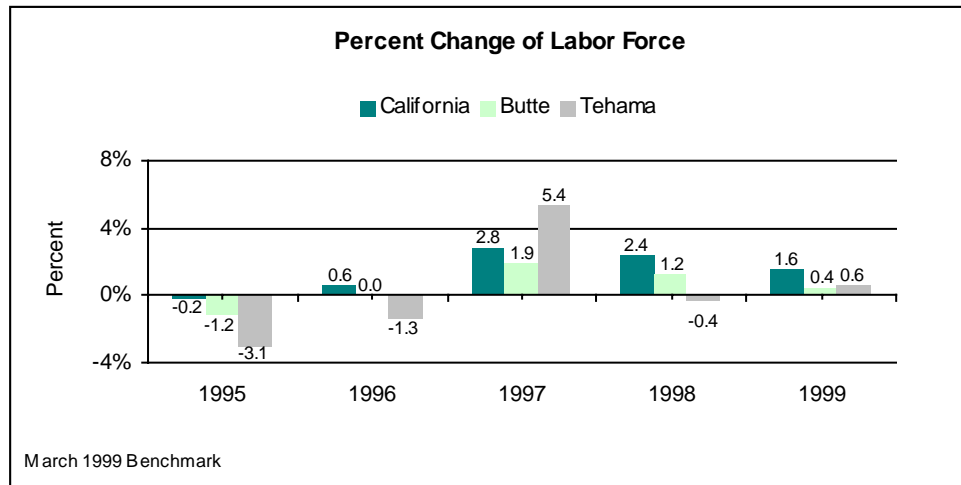
Services is the largest industry sector in the county accounting for more than 30 percent of the total employment and spurring the economy with 700 new jobs in 1999. Other significant industries are retail trade and government each accounting for 21 percent of the employment. In 1999, the government industry sector added 400 jobs and the finance, insurance and real estate industry gained 300 jobs. In the retail trade sector, gains in food stores were offset by declines in eating and drinking places to put the industry at zero growth from 1998 to 1999.

The services and retail trade industries combined are expected to add 3,200 jobs in Butte County during the 1997-2004 forecast period. The business services industry is expected to add the most jobs in the services industry sector. The government sector is expected to grow 8.6 percent, adding 1,200 jobs.

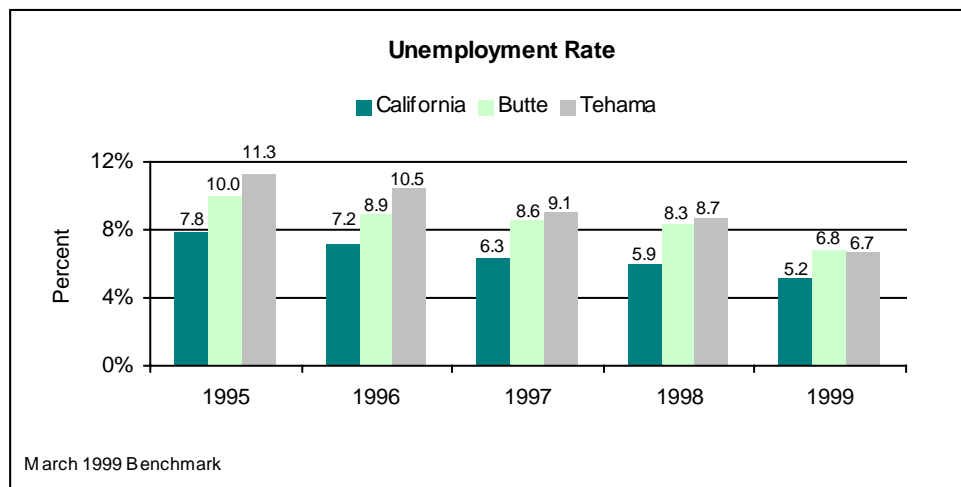
Improving labor market conditions are evident in Butte County as it continues to record job growth and lower unemployment rates.

LABOR FORCE

Since 1997, Butte County has sustained growth in the civilian labor force, with the greatest increase of 1.9 percent occurring in 1997. Cumulative growth from 1995 to 1999 in Butte County is 3.5 percent. Cumulative growth in neighboring Tehama County's civilian labor force was 4.3 percent.

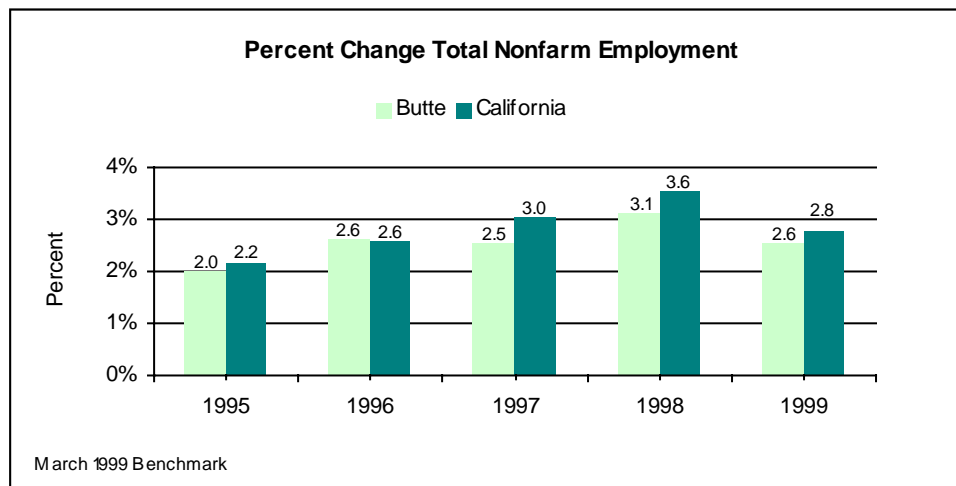


From 1995 to 1999, the annual average unemployment rates have declined for Butte and Tehama counties as well as for the state. In Butte County, the annual average unemployment rate dropped 3.2 percentage points from 10.0 percent in 1995 to 6.8 percent in 1999. During this same period, the unemployment rate dropped 4.6 percentage points in Tehama County.

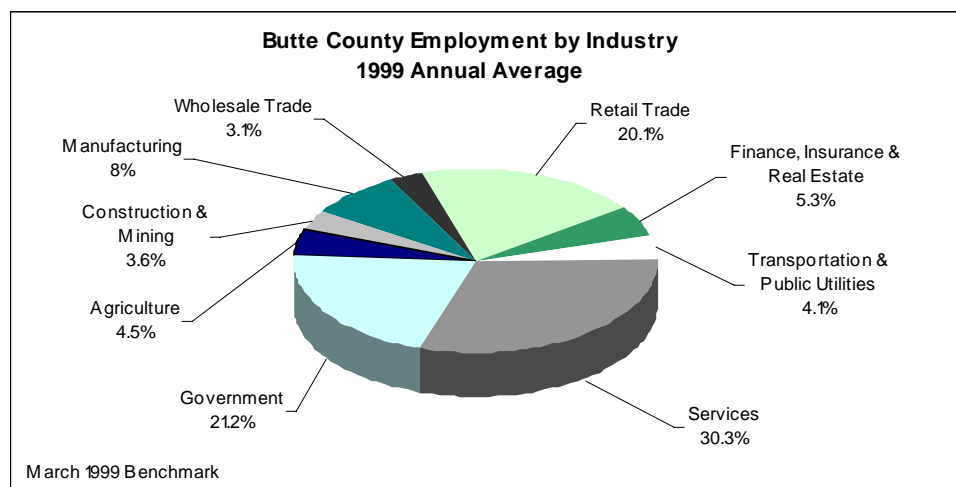


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Job growth creates opportunity and is considered to be a measure of economic health. Since 1995, Butte County's nonfarm wage and salary employment has averaged 2.6 percent growth each year fueled in part by steady employment gains in the services and government industry sectors. In 1999, Butte County's nonfarm employment grew by 2.6 percent representing a gain of 1,700 jobs.



In 1999, the services industry sector had the most employment in Butte County with over 30 percent of the total. The government and retail trade industries each accounted for over 20 percent. During the 1997-2004 forecast period, it is expected that these industries will continue to influence job growth in Butte County.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Butte County is projected to have more employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations.

Associated Occupations	RETAIL TRADE 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 11.3%
	Salespersons, Retail – 300 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.75
	Cashiers – 290 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.56
	Cook Specialty Fast Food – 120 job openings. Make simple, fast-cooking meals and snacks. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.01
	Combined Food Preparation and Service Workers – 110 job openings. Do both food preparation and food service. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.01
	First-Line Supervisor / Manager Sales – 100 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of marketing, sales, and related workers. May perform management functions, such as budgeting, accounting, marketing, and personnel work. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.84
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 8.6%
	General Office Clerks – 40 job openings. Performs a wide variety of tasks. Clerical duties may be assigned in accordance with the office procedures of the individual establishments and may include a combination of bookkeeping, typing, stenography, office machine operation, and filing. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.95
	Maintenance Repairers, General Utility – 30 job openings. Perform work involving two or more maintenance skills to keep the machines, mechanical equipment, and/or structure of an establishment in repair. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$11.68
	Recreation Workers – 20 job openings. Conduct recreation activities with groups in public, private, or volunteer agencies or recreation facilities. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.97
	Construction Managers – 10 job openings. Plan, organize, direct, control, or coordinate, usually through subordinate supervisory personnel, activities concerned with the construction and maintenance of structures, facilities, and systems. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$22.06
	Foresters And Conservation Scientists – 10 job openings. Plan develop, and control environmental factors affecting forests, range land, and farm land and their resources for economic and recreational purposes through activities such as researching soil erosion, conducting fire prevention programs, reforestation, and preservation of natural resources. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$26.91
Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 7.9%
	Personal And Home Care Aides – 120 job openings. Performs a variety of tasks at places of residence. Duties include keeping house and advising families having problems with such things as nutrition, cleanliness, and household duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.43
	Child Care Workers – 90 job openings. Attend to children at child care centers, schools, businesses, and institutions. Perform variety of tasks such as dressing, feeding, bathing, and overseeing play. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.26
	Amusement, Recreation Attendants – 80 job openings. Perform any of a variety of attending duties at amusement or recreation facility. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.64
	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders – 70 job openings. Operate or tend machines such as filling machines, casing running machines, ham rolling machines, preservative filling machines, baling machines, wrapping and stuffing machines to prepare industrial or consumer products as end products or for storage and shipment. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.53
	Registered Nurses – 60 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$18.60

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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(916) 262-2162